

Application No.: 10/501,806

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REMARKS

Claims 1 through 5, 7 through 17, 19 and 20 are pending in the application.

Applicants acknowledge with gratitude that Claim 9 is allowable over the art of record. Accordingly, Claim 1 has been amended into incorporate the subject matter of Claim 9. Claim 9 has thus been canceled.

Claim 17 has been amended to reflect advantageous devices which include a cooling station and a device for recirculating said cleaned transfer support web back to said coating station. Support for this amendment can be found in the Application-as-filed, for example on Page 7, lines 5 through 6.

Claim 19 has been amended to reflect advantageous embodiments in which the film resulting from the recited coating is based on organic raw materials. Support for this amendment can be found in the Application-as-filed, for example on Page 2, lines 22 through 24.

Applicants respectfully submit that this response does not raise new issues, but merely places the above-referenced application either in condition for allowance, or alternatively, in better form for appeal. Reexamination and reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of all rejections, and formal notification of the allowability of the pending claims are earnestly solicited in light of the remarks which follow.

Section 112 Rejection

Claim 19 stands rejected over the phrase "optional additive." Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed subject matter; i.e. coatings containing organic raw materials and, optionally, additives, is well understood by one skilled in the art. In that regard, the Examiner's attention is kindly directed to the Application-as-filed on Page 3,

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line 13.

Nevertheless, Claim 19 has been amended, without further addressing the merits of the rejection and solely to advance prosecution of the case. Claim 19 has more particularly been amended to reflect that the inventive coatings result in films based on organic raw materials.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

The Claimed Invention is Patentable
in Light of the Art of Record

Claims 1 through 4, 10 and 11 stand rejected over United States Patent No. 3,859,157 (US 157) to Morgan in view of United States Patent No. 4,913,760 (US 760) to Benson et al. Claim 5 stands rejected over the foregoing reference and further in light of 5,006,189 (US 189) to Tsukamoto et al. Claims 7, 8, 12 and 15 stand rejected over US 157 in view of US 760 and further in view of United States Patent No. 3,518,152 (US 152) to Storti. Claim 13 stands rejected over US 157 in view of US 760 and further in view of United States Patent No. 2,820,716 (US 716) to Harmon et al. Claim 14 stands rejected over US 157 in view of US 760 and US 716 and further in view of United States Patent No. 6,090,238 (US 238) to Smith. Claims 16, 19 and 20 stand rejected over US 157 and US 760 in light of US 152, in further view of United States Patent No. 4,473,422 to Parker et al. ("US 422"). Claim 17 stands anticipated by US 152.

As noted above, the subject matter of allowed Claim 9 has been incorporated into Claims 1 and 17. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 through 5, 7, 8, 10 through 17, 19 and 20 as-amended are now allowable in light of each of the foregoing references, considered either alone or in combination.

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Applicants respectfully make of record that the foregoing amendment was made solely to advance prosecution of the case and without prejudice or disclaimer to the filing of continuing applications directed to alternative methods of intermediate support material application.

In that regard, Applicants take this opportunity to further make of record that the claimed invention is patentable in light of the cited references, based on further distinguishing features beyond the newly recited cooling station application of the intermediate support material onto the humidity adjusted composite.

Applicants also respectfully reiterate for the record that there would have been no motivation to have combined these references. US 157 is directed to scored label backings. US 760 is directed to an alternative to spray painting, for use with automobiles and the like. US 189 is directed to thermal printing ribbons having a uniform coating. US 152 is directed to thermoset fabric laminates used as upholstery. US 716 is directed to the consolidation of woolen or cotton fabrics using charged particles. US 238 removes vinyl decals from cars. US 422 is directed to improved solvent mixtures for use in transfer metallization.

These are altogether different fields of endeavor and problems solved, to say the least.

However, even if combined (which Applicants did not) the the recited method for transferring a coating from a transfer support web to an intermediate support layer by humidification of the coating to be transferred to a humidity of about 20 to 60% would not have resulted.

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Accordingly, Applicants respectfully make of record that the claimed invention is patentable in light of each of the cited references, considered either alone or in combination, based on the foregoing distinguishing features in addition to the recited cooling device.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that Applicants have made a significant and important contribution to the art, which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the art. It is believed that all of pending Claims 1 through 5, 7, 8 10 through 17, 19 and 20 are now in condition for immediate allowance. It is requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned if any questions remain to expedite examination of this application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time and/or fees are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2193.

Respectfully submitted,

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